THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Under the Centrally Sponsored scheme of Project Tiger, Karnataka has sought Rs. 422.70 lakhs as Central Assistance for Bandipur Tiger Reserve during the current financial year.

(b) Funding support is provided to a reserve as per site specific requirement based on the management plan, within the ambit of Project Tiger guidelines.

Biosphere Reserves

547. SHRI S. P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is lack of interest in Restoring Biosphere Reserve as there is no separate financial budget for Bio-diversity during the recent years;

(b) the details of budgetary allocations made especially for restoring biosphere reserves during the last five years; and

(c) the efforts made by Government to make use of the biodiversity for social and economic benefits as India is one of the 12 mega diversity 'hotspot' regions in the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. Adequate financial budget has been made for restoring Biosphere Reserves including Bio-diversity during recent years.

(b) Details of budgetary allocations made especially for restoring Biosphere Reserves during the last 5 years is as follows:—

(Rupees in crore)

Year	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total
Allocation	4.05	4.90	6.99	7.0	7.0	29.94
Release	4.45	5.20	6.07	7.04	6.97	29.73

(c) A large population in the country derive social and economic benefits from biodiversity in terms of timber, fuel wood, food and other minor forest produce, sustainable eco-tourism and recharging of aquifers.

More recently the Government have issued guideliens for rationalization of restrictions on felling and transit regulations for trees, species grown on non-forest private lands. The promotion and strengthening of the Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) across the country is also intended to safeguard biodiversity through people's empowerment and involvement. At policy level, the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 has been passed, and the National Biodiversity Authority has been established to regulate access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. The process of setting up of State Biodiversity Boards by States and Biodiversity Management Committees by local bodies is also on.

Tourist attractions near sanctuaries

548. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of sanctuaries have huge hotels and other tourist attractions on their borders and periphery;

(b) if so, whether any study has been done on the need to limit tourism near or through such sanctuaries;

(c) whether any limit has been placed on the number of people to visit such sanctuaries on any given day;

(d) the studies done on the negative impact of tourism on game sanctuaries; and

(e) the steps proposed to ensure that animals and fauna do not become extinct due to large influx of tourists and visitors in sanctuaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir. Some Protected Areas have hotels and tourist attractions on their borders.

(b) to (e) Time and again, the Ministry has constituted expert groups and commissioned studies to regulate tourism in Protected Areas. The recent guidelines in this regard are at Statement-I and II.

Statement-I

Revised guidelines for Wildlife Tourism (1998)

In pursuance of the decision taken in the Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Indian Board for Wildlife held on 5.11.97, a Committee